



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** November 12, 2019

**Agenda Item:** Madison River Recreation Petition from Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana

**Action Needed:** Proposal

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:**

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**Background:**

The Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana submitted a petition to the Commission for rulemaking related to river recreation on the Madison River. The petition requests the Commission to initiate rulemaking to manage commercial use on the Madison River. The petition requests rule making on the following:

- Overall river use;
- Commercial use management;
- Tier-based allocation;
- Evaluation of plan;
- Education on social conflict;
- Enforcement for Madison River recreation.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:**

The petition has not been released for public comment.

**Alternatives & Analysis:**

The petition meets the requirements for petitioning rule making (ARM 12.4.103-104).

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:**

The Department proposed a river recreation rule to the Commission in April 2018. At that time the Department recommended the Commission release the proposed rule for public comment. The rules were not released for public comment and the Commission directed the Department to develop an alternative which resulted in a Negotiated Rulemaking Process which did not lead to the development of rules. A proposed rule for river recreation on the Madison has never been released for public comment, the Department recommends the Commission consider releasing rules for consideration by the public.

**Proposed Motion:**